



Angel Flight West Crista Worthy, Editor

The IAA has a new Nonprofit Partner! [Angel Flight West](#), based in Santa Monica, California. Angel Flight West (AFW) serves several Western states, including Idaho, by providing free air transportation for patients who need to travel to receive specialized medical treatment not available locally. Missions are flown by volunteer pilots who generously donate their time, aircraft, talent, and fuel to transport patients and their families. Currently, there are 59 volunteer pilots in AFW's Idaho network — but the need is still great.

The impact of Angel Flight West in Idaho is significant for individuals and families facing medical challenges, enabling them to access necessary medical care that might otherwise be difficult to reach due to geographical distances or financial constraints. So far in 2024, more than 95 mission legs have been flown for Idaho residents, helping them bridge the gap between home and health. When asked about his involvement with AFW, Idaho Wing Leader and volunteer pilot Don Reiman says, "I combine my desire to serve others and love for flying by donating my time and airplane to nonprofit organizations like Angel Flight West. Using my pilot skills and airplane for charitable work allows me to feed my flying habit while flying with a purpose."

One recent passenger was Frank from Meridian, Idaho, who needed to access cancer care in Southern California. When discussing the impact of their gifted flights, Frank's wife Denise says, "AFW provides a bridge so Frank can have quality of care, which in turn, is quality of life."

Denise and Frank were college sweethearts, enjoying their lives as young musicians. Today, celebrating 45 years of marriage, the couple lives in Meridian, Idaho, only a few houses away from their adored children and grandchildren. But Frank knew something was off when he felt his lips weakening while playing his trumpet during a local production of *Beauty and the Beast*.



Shortly after, a scan confirmed Frank had a brain tumor and would need to find a neurosurgeon, leading the husband-and-wife duo to the life-saving medical team at Hoag Hospital in Orange County.

After caring for Denise for years throughout her own medical challenges, Frank was now the patient, undergoing brain surgery nearly 900 miles away from the comfort of his home. Denise, an experienced nurse practitioner herself, only wanted the best care for Frank, something that their medical team at Hoag Hospital has continuously given. "The treatment they've provided has been the only thing that has really helped with keeping his tumor at bay," says Denise. "I have their personal phone numbers. They really care."

The couple started flying with Angel Flight West after hearing about the organization from some aviation friends. Their first angel flight was in March of this year, and the experience has proven to be an adventure while helping to offset some of their costly medical bills. "The pilots are wonderful, and I love see Frank's smile when we take off," says Denise.

As for Frank, he feels very blessed to have been connected with AFW to reach his essential treatments. And even though he was told he wouldn't play his trumpet again after brain surgery, he's hardly missed a note, even playing the opening number from popular musical *Annie* after his procedure. After all, with the support of a loving family, expert medical team, and generous volunteer pilots, the sun will come out tomorrow — and for many days to come.

Volunteer pilots make a life-changing difference for passengers each day by giving them the gift of flight. Choose when and how often you fly, while meeting new people and flying to new locations. Learn more about getting involved at AngelFlightWest.org/pilot-page. Contact Angel Flight West at (310) 390-2958 or info@AngelFlightWest.org.



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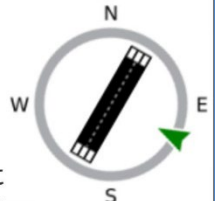
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